

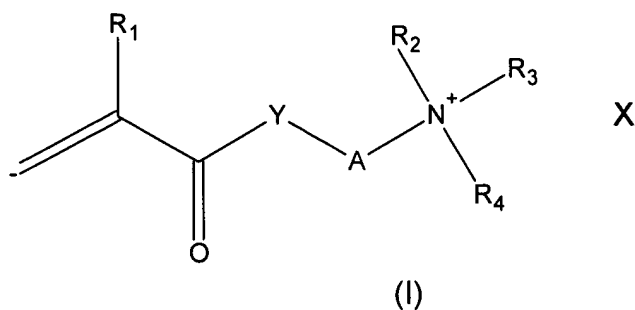
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-15 cancelled.

16. (new) An inverse emulsion having an aqueous phase and an organic phase comprising from about 20 to about 70% by weight of an acrylic polymer obtained by the inverse emulsion polymerization of

- i. from about 55 to 76% by weight of an anionic acrylic monomer containing a strongly acidic functional group;
- ii from about 0.1 to 5% by weight of a cationic acrylic monomer of the formula (I):



wherein R_1 is hydrogen or methyl;

R_2 , R_3 , R_4 are, one independently of the others, hydrogen or a C1-C4 alkyl;

Y is NH or O;

A is a C₁-C₆ alkylene; and

X is chloride; and

- iii. from about 25 to 45% by weight of a C₃-C₅ anionic acrylic monomer containing a carboxylic group;

wherein the weight ratio between the aqueous phase and the organic phase is from about 4:1 to about 2:1,.

17. (new) The inverse emulsion according to claim 16., wherein the acrylic polymer is obtained by the inverse emulsion polymerization of

- i. from about 60 to 70% by weight of an anionic acrylic monomer containing a strongly acidic functional group;
- ii. from about 2 to 4% by weight of a cationic acrylic monomer of the formula (I); and
- iii. from about 30 to 40% by weight of a C₃-C₅ anionic acrylic monomer containing a carboxylic group.

18. (new) The inverse emulsion according to claim 16., wherein the anionic acrylic monomer containing a strongly acidic functional group is 2- acrylamido-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid.

19. (new) The inverse emulsion according to claim 18., wherein the cationic acrylic monomer of the formula (I) is selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxyethyl trimethylammonium chloride and methacryloyloxyethyl trimethylammonium chloride.

20. (new) The inverse emulsion according to claim 17., wherein the C₃-C₅ anionic acrylic monomer containing a carboxylic group is selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid.

21. (new) The inverse emulsion according to claim 16., wherein the acrylic polymer obtained by inverse emulsion polymerization is cross-linked with from about 0.01 to about 1% by weight of a compound containing two or more ethylenic groups.

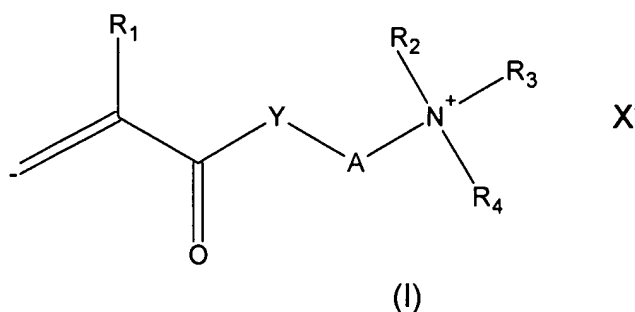
22. (new) The inverse emulsion according to claim 21., wherein the acrylic polymer obtained by inverse emulsion polymerization is cross-linked with methylene-bis-

acrylamide.

23. (new) A procedure for the preparation of an inverse emulsion comprising:

a. preparing a composition comprising from about 40 to about 60% by weight of water, and for the remaining weight percentage, a mixture of acrylic monomers consisting of:

- i. from 55 to 75% by weight of an anionic acrylic monomer containing a strongly acidic functional group;
- ii. from 0.1 to 5% by weight of a cationic acrylic monomer of the formula (I)



wherein

R₁ is hydrogen or methyl;

R₂, R₃, R₄ are, one independently of the others, hydrogen or a C₁-C₄ alkyl;

Y is NH or O;

A is a C₁-C₆ alkylene;

X is chloride,

- iii. from 25 to 45% by weight of a C₃-C₅ anionic acrylic monomer containing a carboxylic group;
- b. adding to the composition prepared in a. an aqueous solution of an alkali to regulate the pH between 4 and 7, a cross-linking agent and an initiator of radical polymerization, and maintaining the temperature between 3 and 7°C
- c. preparing an organic phase containing one or more water-in-oil emulsifiers;
- d. introducing the mixture obtained in b. into the organic phase prepared in c. and emulsifying the two phases by vigorous stirring;

- e. initiating the polymerization and completing it maintaining the temperature between 55 and 95°C under vigorous stirring; and
- f. cooling the reaction mixture to 35-45°C and adding an oil-in-water emulsifier.

24. (new) The Procedure for the preparation of an inverse emulsion according to claim 23., wherein the mixture of acrylic monomers of the phase a. comprises:

- i. from 60 to 70% by weight of an anionic acrylic monomer containing a strongly acidic functional group;
- ii. from 2 to 4% by weight of a cationic acrylic monomer of the formula I); and
- iii. from 30 to 40% by weight of C₃-C₅ anionic acrylic monomer so containing a carboxylic group.

25. (new) The procedure for the preparation of an inverse emulsion according to claim 23., wherein the anionic acrylic monomer containing a strongly acidic functional group is 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid.

26. (new) The procedure for the preparation of an inverse emulsion according to claim 23., wherein the cationic acrylic monomer of the formula (I) is selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxyethyl-trimethylammonium chloride and methacryloyloxyethyl-trimethylammonium chloride.

27. (new) The procedure for the preparation of an inverse emulsion according to claim 23., wherein the C₃-C₅ anionic acrylic monomer containing a carboxylic group is selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid.

28. (new) The procedure for the preparation of an inverse emulsion according to claim 23., wherein the acrylic polymer obtained by inverse emulsion polymerization is cross-linked with from about 0.01 to about 1% by weight of a compound containing two or more ethylenic groups.

29. (new) The procedure for the preparation of an inverse emulsion according to claim 28., wherein the acrylic polymer obtained by inverse emulsion polymerization is cross-linked with methylene-bis-acrylamide.

30. (new) A procedure for preparing a cosmetic comprising preparing the cosmetic using an inverse emulsion of claim 16.